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In re Appln. of Tse

Application No. Unassigned (National Phase of PCT/CA03/00522)

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

- 1. (Original) A process for preparing enantiomerically enriched (4-bromo-2-(hydroxymethyl)phenyl)-(4-fluorophenyl)methanol from racemic (4-bromo-2-(hydroxymethyl)phenyl)-(4-fluorophenyl)methanol, comprising:
- (a) converting said racemic (4-bromo-2-(hydroxymethyl)phenyl)-(4-fluorophenyl)methanol to a racemic monoester intermediate by reaction with a carboxylic acid or a reactive derivative thereof;
- (b) reacting said racemic monoester intermediate with an optically active acid to form a salt of said racemic monoester intermediate;
- (c) crystallization of said salt to recover an enantiomerically enriched, crystalline form of said salt;
- (d) neutralization of said salt to give an enantiomerically enriched form of said monoester intermediate; and
- (e) hydrolysis of the enantiomerically enriched form of said monoester intermediate to produce said enantiomerically enriched (4-bromo-2-(hydroxymethyl)phenyl)-(4-fluorophenyl)methanol.
- 2. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the (4-bromo-2-(hydroxymethyl)phenyl)-(4-fluorophenyl)methanol produced in step (e) is enriched in an enantiomer which can be converted to escitalopram by dehydration and by substitution of bromine by a nitrile group.
- 3. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1 or 2, wherein step (a) comprises reaction of said racemic (4-bromo-2-(hydroxymethyl)phenyl)-(4-fluorophenyl)methanol with a reactive derivative of a carboxylic acid, said reactive derivative being selected from the group comprising acid chlorides and acid anhydrides.

- 4. (Original) The process of claim 3, wherein said step (a) comprises reaction of said racemic (4-bromo-2-(hydroxymethyl)phenyl)-(4-fluorophenyl)methanol with acetic anhydride to form the monoacetate ester of said racemic (4-bromo-2-(hydroxymethyl)phenyl)-(4-fluorophenyl)methanol.
- 5. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein said optically active acid is di-ptoluoyl tartaric acid.
- 6. (Original) The process of claim 5, wherein said optically active acid is (+)-dip-toluoyl tartaric acid.
- 7. (Original) The monoacetate ester of (4-bromo-2-(hydroxymethyl)phenyl)-(4-fluorophenyl)methanol and salts thereof.
- 8. (Currently Amended) <u>The ester of claim 7, being An enantiomerically</u> enriched monoacetate ester of (4-bromo-2 (hydroxymethyl)phenyl) (4-fluorophenyl)methanol and salts thereof.
- 9. (Original) The ester of claim 8, being enriched in an enantiomer which can be converted to escitalopram by dehydration and by substitution of bromine by a nitrile group.
- 10. (Original) The ester of claim 9, wherein said salt is the (+)-di-p-toluoyl tartaric acid salt of said monoacetate ester.
 - 11. (Original) A process for preparing escitalopram, comprising:
- (a) reacting 5-bromophthalide with 4-fluoro-phenylmagnesium bromide to produce 4-bromo-2-hydroxymethyl-4'-fluorobenzophenone;
- (b) reacting said 4-bromo-2-hydroxymethyl-4'-fluorobenzophenone with 3-dimethylaminopropyl magnesium chloride to produce racemic (4-bromo-2-(hydroxymethyl)phenyl)-(4-fluorophenyl)methanol;

- (c) converting said racemic (4-bromo-2-(hydroxymethyl)phenyl)-(4-fluorophenyl)methanol to a racemic monoester intermediate by reaction with a carboxylic acid or a reactive derivative thereof;
- (d) reacting said racemic monoester intermediate with an optically active acid to form a salt of said racemic monoester intermediate;
- (e) crystallization of said salt to recover an enantiomerically enriched, crystalline form of said salt;
- (f) neutralization of said salt to give an enantiomerically enriched form of said monoester intermediate:
- (g) hydrolysis of the enantiomerically enriched form of said monoester intermediate to produce enantiomerically enriched (4-bromo-2-(hydroxymethyl)phenyl)-(4-fluorophenyl)methanol;
- (h) dehydration of said enantiomerically enriched (4-bromo-2-(hydroxymethyl)phenyl)-(4-fluorophenyl)methanol to produce enantiomerically enriched 1-(4'-fluorophenyl)-1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-5-bromophthalane; and
 - (i) replacement of bromine by a nitrile group to produce escitalopram.
- 12. (Original) The process of claim 11, wherein step (c) comprises reaction of said racemic (4-bromo-2-(hydroxymethyl)phenyl)-(4-fluorophenyl)methanol with a reactive derivative of a carboxylic acid, said reactive derivative being selected from the group comprising acid chlorides and acid anhydrides.
- 13. (Original) The process of claim 12, wherein said step (c) comprises reaction of said racemic (4-bromo-2-(hydroxymethyl)phenyl)-(4-fluorophenyl)methanol with acetic anhydride to form the monoacetate ester of said racemic (4-bromo-2-(hydroxymethyl)phenyl)-(4-fluorophenyl)methanol.
- 14. (Original) The process of claim 11, wherein said optically active acid is di-ptoluoyl tartaric acid.

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15. (Original) The process of claim 14, wherein said optically active acid is (+)-di-p-toluoyl tartaric acid.